

~~TOP SECRET~~

5 September 1954

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Office of Current Intelligence

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**SUMMARY**

1.

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**FAR EAST**

2. Morale on Quemoy reported questionable (page 3).

**NEAR EAST - AFRICA**

3. Comment on Syrian political situation (page 4).

**LATIN AMERICA**

4.

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1.

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**FAR EAST**

**2. Morale on Quemoy reported questionable:**

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The populace and Nationalist troops on the Quemoy Islands were "jittery" even before the Communist artillery bombardment of the Quemoy Islands on 3 September, according to

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Page 3

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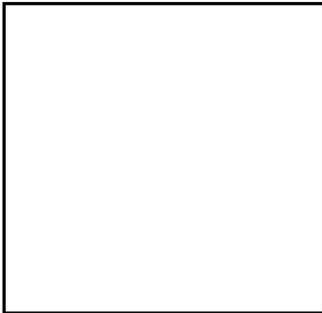
an American naval officer who returned to Taipei on that date from a three-day visit to the islands. The Nationalist commanding general indicated to the source that, in the event of a Communist landing, he would be forced to abandon some part of the island.

Comment: This eyewitness account conflicts with Nationalist statements to the effect that troop morale is high and that determined defense of the islands will be made at all costs.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

3. Comment on Syrian political situation:

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Syria is likely to have a relatively stable government by traditional civilian elements as a result of the agreement announced on 4 September between the leading political parties to participate in the 24 September elections as a "general national union" under the leadership of ex-president Shukri Quwatli.

This announcement means that Quwatli has succeeded in organizing the old-line politicians behind his candidacy for the presidency. If this alliance is maintained, he will have halted the steady deterioration of the Syrian situation which has been of benefit to only the extreme socialists and the Communists.

A Syrian government under Quwatli--who has been subsidized while in exile for the past five years by Egypt and Saudi Arabia--would be basically pro-Western. It would be relatively moderate in its approach to the Israeli question. [redacted]

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LATIN AMERICA

4.

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